

Maine Legacy

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Program of the Year!
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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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JAN 31 1996

Winter 1996

Back River Refuge

Set aside the trademark image of Maine's rockbound coast, of furious frothed waves breaking relentlessly upon granite headlands. Take instead a closer look at the lower reaches of the Kennebec River, at

stretches of unpummeled shoreline, where the rising tide envelops expanses of standing cordgrass - tall, stiff, coarse, narrow spikes as resilient in their way as the rocky coast.

These are salt marsh habitats not

often associated with Maine. In their midst, one finds the latest gift of land acquired by the Conservancy: some 275 acres along a marshy tributary of the lower Kennebec called the Back River. What these several miles of shoreline surrender in wave-wrought drama, they recapture in a tranquil and transcendent beauty as salt marshes sweep from shore to stream, silver in the evening, spring-green into summer, sun-gold by fall.

But more than beauty accounts for their significance. Nudge a canoe off the main river course and into narrow

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BRUCE KIDMAN

These salt marshes, among Maine's most important, are now part of the Conservancy's collection of protected habitats.

Burnt Island Joins Sheep In Protected Fold

Some ideas have wings of their own; none more appropriately so than the idea that 15-acre Burnt Island in East Penobscot Bay deserves permanent protection. In concert with nearby Sheep Island, a Conservancy preserve since 1983, Burnt has, in the words of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioner Bucky Owens, "set the standard for eagle nesting longevity

on coastal islands...over 35 years of productive eagle residency." Wildlife biologists say the islands constitute the heart of the most consistently productive and long-lived eagle nesting territory on the Maine coast.

So when word came last spring that the island was for sale, it was no surprise that the Conservancy set to work on several fronts to raise suf-

ficient funds to protect this exceptional eagle habitat.

By far the most responsive chord was struck with the island's North Haven neighbors and others who know the small, heavily forested island well. Single gifts ranged from \$1,000 to several of \$30,000! Seeing this remarkable outpouring of gener-

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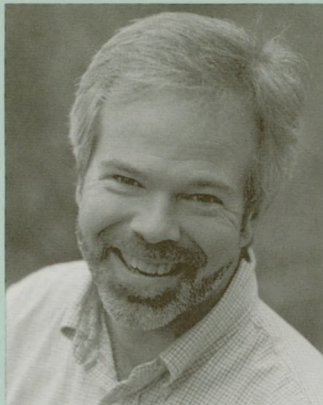


KYLE STOCKWELL

Burnt Island, foreground, in tandem with the Conservancy's Sheep Island, behind, set the standard for eagle nesting habitat in Maine: 21 eaglets fledged over one 17-year stretch.

The Director's Column

by Kent W. Wommack



ANNIE ROSE

Eight years ago, the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy was celebrating a banner year. The economy was booming and environmental protection was a top concern of political leaders and citizens alike. We had just completed the \$1.1 million campaign for Big Reed and had led a broad coalition of citizens in establishing the \$35 million Land for Maine's Future program - the first time a Conservancy office had led a referendum effort for public land acquisition.

Our achievements that year earned members of the Maine Chapter the Conservancy's national *Outstanding Program Award*. Just eight years later, under very different economic and political circumstances, the Chapter has once again been honored from among some sixty Conservancy programs throughout this country, Latin America and the Pacific islands.

The announcement was made at the Conservancy's national annual meeting this fall. Those attending had heard about the completion of the organization-wide \$300 million Last Great Places campaign, about the 55,000-acre Tall Grass Prairie Preserve in Oklahoma, hundreds of thousands of acres of rain forest protected in Latin America, and a host of other extraordinary achievements throughout this hemisphere and the Pacific.

Thus, it was truly humbling that the Maine Chapter was again singled out for recognition in 1995. Other pro-

grams could boast more land acquired and more conservation dollars raised. So why Maine?

The answer, according to the award citation, lies in innovation, perseverance, practicality and partnerships. We are credited for constantly looking for new and better ways to protect endangered habitat and for our willingness to take calculated risks to achieve tangible and lasting results.

For instance, when the Maine real estate market went bust in the late 1980s, we borrowed money and bought dozens of spectacular sites - at bargain prices. To pay for these new lands, we launched the Maine Legacy campaign in the teeth of a major recession. True to form, Maine Chapter members responded with unprecedented generosity.

As public land acquisition funding dwindled, we identified new ways to protect endangered Maine habitat - partnering with other organizations to

Back River

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channels banked with saltmarsh and saltmeadow cordgrass. Here, in the right season and at the right time of day, one is likely to scatter black ducks, blue- or green-wing teal, mallards and more. The lower Kennebec River provides some of the best waterfowl habitat on the eastern seaboard and, along with Merrymeeting Bay, forms one of the largest and most important freshwater tidal ecosystems in the United States.

Salt marshes are one of Maine's rarest ecosystems. In total acreage they constitute less than four-tenths of one percent of the state's wetland types. And because the lower Kennebec and Back are part of a river complex that contains just under half of the state's total acres of salt marsh, this area has become increasingly important to



BRUCE KIDMAN

thousands of migrating and wintering waterfowl.

The area provides habitat for a variety of other species as well. Wary wading birds and migrating shorebirds find cover among six to eight foot blades of the characteristic saltmarsh cordgrass. They are equally grateful for the timely feast provided by the seeds, leaves and roots (rhizomes) of salt

marsh plants. And while the mucky, richly-scented silt and sand sediment of the bottom can clutch a wader's boot almost irretrievably, it freely relinquishes invertebrate delicacies only a bird could love. In fact, among the most important habitats within this area are the non-vegetated intertidal mudflats which remain open for waterfowl throughout the winter.

launch the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, and with major forest land-owners on a cooperative venture to identify and protect key sites within their ownerships. We work with tourism officials around Cobscook Bay to develop better public access to local conservation lands, and with local land trusts on joint management of preserves.

This kind of constant innovation is a hallmark of the Conservancy. But comparable achievements over the next few years will not come easily. With the economy still in slow gear and public funding for environmental protection scarce, private efforts like those of Conservancy members in Maine will be ever more important.

Maine Chapter staff
on a fall trip to explore
Saco River habitats.



BRUCE KIDMAN

In addition to its direct value to wildlife as sanctuary, nursery and food pantry, the salt marsh is a water purifier, oxygen pump and producer of organic matter in the range of 10 tons to the acre per year (twice the production of the average farm). The majority of this organic production is washed to the ocean as basic nutrient for sea creatures large and small.

Bald eagles roost, feed and nest here as well (note our recent story on nearby Lee Island). And these take an interest in the striped bass, Atlantic salmon, alewife, shad, rainbow smelt and other fisheries supported by the Kennebec River system. Here also are short-nose sturgeon, a federally listed endangered species.

The 275-acre acquisition, a combination of marsh and upland, is located in a "sweet spot" of important marsh and riverine habitats. The gift

In thanking Conservancy President John Sawhill for the Outstanding Program Award, I told him that next year we had our eyes set on the other national award given each year: the one for the Most Improved Program. I was only half kidding, for it is only by continued innovation and commitment to excellence that we will succeed in the years ahead. I hope that each of you takes due pride in our mutual accomplishments to date, and will help us set our sights even higher in 1996 and beyond.

culminated an exciting and active year of work on the part of the Conservancy and its partners in the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition - and sets the stage for more progress. The Coalition (see inset box) has been working since 1987 to identify significant wetland habitats along the Maine Coast and to find appropriate funding sources for securing them. Merrymeeting Bay and the lower Kennebec has long been a high priority, and this land gift is the latest in a recent series of key acquisitions on the lower Kennebec. In addition, the donor (who has asked to

Coalition for Wetlands

Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition members working in Merrymeeting Bay and the lower Kennebec include the Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Departments of Agriculture and of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, and the Brunswick-Topsham, Lower Kennebec Regional and Phippsburg Land Trusts.

remain anonymous) has allowed the Maine Chapter to use the value of the gift as leverage in a grant proposal recently submitted by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. The grant, which has received preliminary approval, will pay for additional land acquisition projects, further ensuring that the habitats of this area will remain productive and pristine.

**Program
of the
Year!**

It was hard this fall to keep our equilibrium when learning that the Maine Chapter had been named the *Outstanding Program of the Year* by The Nature Conservancy. That achievement would not have been possible without the support of literally thousands of people, starting with our trustees and over 11,000 loyal Maine Chapter members. Ultimately you make this work possible - endangered habitats acquired, preserves stewarded, boardwalks built, science-based policies developed, conservation achieved. This award belongs also to our many partners - landowners, legislators, businesses, land trusts, civic and trade groups, public officials, foundations, volunteers, selectmen and environmental colleagues - and more. Thank you for your commitment to protecting Maine's most precious natural sites.

A Sedge On The Saco River

The Conservancy recently purchased its second parcel in the Saco River watershed, bringing our holdings to 35 acres in this complex and unusual floodplain ecosystem. The Conservancy's adjacent parcels are home to Maine's largest population of a rare sedge called Long's bulrush (*Scirpus longii*). While at least twelve Maine populations are known, with all but one within the Saco's floodplain, only three are of notable size.

As little as ten years ago, a pine barrens in New Jersey was thought to harbor the only viable *Scirpus longii* population. Despite dramatic recent growth in the number of known sites here and elsewhere, *Scirpus longii* is still believed to be imperilled throughout its range.

Historically, the bulrush was difficult to identify in the field. The most common method of identifying a plant is by observing its flowers. Long's bulrush, however, rarely flowers. Individual plants may grow for decades, gradually spreading their thick rhizomes to form distinctive circular colonies up to 15 feet across.



BARBARA VICKERY

John Lortie stands beside a tall flowering stalk of *Scirpus longii*. Occurrences of the rare bulrush have been discovered in the Saco River floodplain, a complex mosaic of flood-adapted communities including riverwash basins, oxbow ponds, sedge meadows, lakes, fens, swales

Once botanists learned to recognize the bulrush's leafy shoots in its non-flowering state, and particularly its distinctive network of rhizomes, locations in Nova Scotia, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts were discovered. The new sites contributed new insights.

It is believed, for example, that the bulrush's decline has been hastened by man's success in fire control. *Scirpus longii* is thought to be fire adapted, at least to the point where fire triggers

flowering. This fire tolerance may have provided it an edge over other plants competing for space in its habitat.

The Conservancy is currently seeking funding for further research on Long's bulrush that will help us understand the plant and its management needs better. What we learn about this species will also add to our understanding of how the entire Saco River ecosystem functions.

Burnt Island

continued from page one

osity, *Downeast Magazine* asked its readers to pitch in as well. In a special holiday insert of Maine-inspired gift-giving ideas, readers were encouraged to make donations of \$35 or more in the names of friends and family members (each of whom received a handsome and colorful "deed" recognizing them as an "honorary protector of Burnt Island").

The Conservancy has been directly involved in the protection of more than 80 Maine coastal islands, including more than 50 we currently own. Since many have been protected because of their importance to the state's eagle



Sheep Island

population, the Conservancy has emerged, more through perseverance than intent, as the largest owner of bald eagle nesting habitat in Maine.

While the nation's eagle population

has made a heartening rebound from the desperate years before the ban of DDT, the recovery for Maine eagles has been less dramatic. The Conservancy sites provide a safety net for these raptors with certain sites, such as Burnt and Sheep, particularly important from an historical perspective. In fact, state biologist Charlie Todd notes that "in the 1960s, the low point of population decline of this endangered species, this was the only setting inhabited by nesting eagles in all of Penobscot Bay."

The Conservancy holds an option on Burnt Island which will be exercised in January. The owners have worked with the Conservancy to structure a charitable sale substantially below its appraised market value.

Management Plan Protects Debsconeag Wilds

Nahmakanta Revisited

Six years ago, the Conservancy announced a spectacular \$13 million land deal negotiated on behalf of the Land for Maine's Future Board. The deal netted the state nearly 40,000 acres in seven locations. By far the largest was a 30,000-acre parcel encompassing the lower half of Rainbow Township and the entirety of Nahmakanta Township. This vast forested landscape lies five miles southwest of Baxter State Park.

When the property was transferred to the state, it came under the management of the Bureau of Public Lands and was cojoined with nearly 13,000 adjacent acres already managed by the Bureau. Recently, Conservation Commissioner Ronald Lovaglio announced

Simonton Quarry Preserve

The Conservancy has acquired a seven-acre parcel at Simonton Corner Quarry in Rockport, our sixth acquisition at this site since 1972. The addition, made possible by an anonymous donor, links two separate parcels already owned by the Conservancy.

The Simonton Corner Quarry Preserve contains three abandoned water-filled limestone quarries (which hold both historic and scenic significance) and surrounding uplands. The floodplains and wetlands along the Goose River, which bisects this site, have been mapped by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as waterfowl and wading bird habitat. The Preserve has been managed by the Coastal Mountains Land Trust since 1992



BILL SILLIKER, JR.



A 9,200-acre section of the Nahmakanta lands purchased by the Land for Maine's Future Board has been placed under special protection.

the adoption of a long-awaited management plan for the 43,000-acre Nahmakanta Unit. The plan, which accommodates many traditional recreational and commercial uses, will guide management decisions for the next ten years.

Most notably, the plan sets aside 9,200 acres in the remote and scenic Debsconeag Lakes region as a back-country recreation area where little vehicle access will be allowed and only a few new trails developed. To retain its natural character, it is the only major section in which absolutely no timber harvest will be permitted.

This action, based on an extensive and thorough inventory of the Unit's many values, is both remarkable and unprecedented. The Bureau, which is dependent on timber sales for funding, has taken a courageous and far-reaching approach.

Other areas within the Unit will be managed for a variety of primary and secondary uses. For example, an additional 2,500 acres of land and water fall into a special protection designation for rare and endangered species, geological formations and valuable archaeological, educational, scientific or historic sites. Wildlife management, general recreation, visual considerations, and long-rotation timber harvesting are each primary uses in some areas but become secondary in others.

In constructing this plan, state officials balanced the goals of the Land for Maine's Future Board, the Bureau's own mission and the many traditional activities in this sprawling forestland. An advisory committee of more than 30 Maine citizens provided a wide variety of perspectives. Janet McMahon represented the Conservancy.

Fifty-six lakes and ponds, narrow gorges, mountains and a variety of forest communities in a variety of successional stages make this an exceptional natural area.

The Cobscook Bay research program launched a year ago is examining the bay from many perspectives using many tools. These range from simple rulers and sampling buckets to some of the most sophisticated computer modeling and satellite imaging technology available. While much of this activity takes place in computer and bioresearch laboratories well removed from the Bay itself, a great deal of the information has been gathered along Cobscook

Science On Board

shores and on (and in) its waters. On-site measurements (such as salinity, temperature, siltation, nutrient levels, current structure, light penetration, benthic diatom activity, marine macroalgae and eel grass growth and other oceanographic variables) are being assimilated with aerial photos, geology, wetlands and topography maps, and more. Now that the first season's field

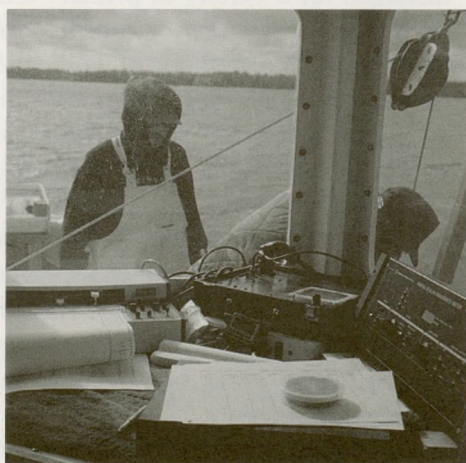
work has been completed, winter finds the team of researchers deeply into what one scientist refers to as the "data assimilation mode."

The project's aim is to understand the functioning of this extraordinarily productive bay in as comprehensive a manner as possible, and to share that knowledge as widely as possible. Several public meetings have been held in the area to update residents on progress, and more meetings are planned for next summer.

Six research cruises, spread from May to November, repeated a series of tests at the same 46 stations throughout the bay each trip. At right, Doug Phinney of Bigelow Labs lowers a Secchi disk, one way researchers measure water clarity. At the far right center, his brother David, prepares a Niskin water sampling bottle with both ends open. When lowered to a specific depth, end caps can be closed from above and a sample of the water column at that particular depth trapped for later analysis.



BARBARA VICKERY



BRUCE KIDMAN



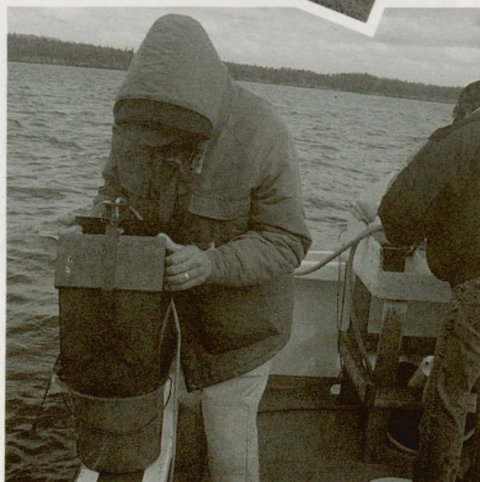
BRUCE KIDMAN



BRUCE KIDMAN

At right researcher Skip Erickson peers into a sampling bucket, known as a bottom grab, he had lowered to the bay's floor. Doors on the bottom of the device remain open until they impact the bottom, then close upon whatever plant, animal or mineral materials are there.

While researchers toil on deck, computers and other data collection devices record information in the wheelhouse (above). Areas that could not be reached by boat were sampled by volunteers from Eastport High School and the Friedman Research Station.



The sea is always providing surprises. Researchers (top right) had planned on measuring kelp growth every three weeks, but soon found the plant grew so fast, they needed to take measurements every ten days. They also believed that colder air and water temperatures would put a chill on the kelp's growth by mid-October. Instead, the last week in December found the scientists still at the shore, rubbing their hands together briskly, and marveling at the plant's productivity. Above, Brian Beal and others taking measurements during a warmer month.

Demystifying Membership In Five Easy Steps

What is the difference between state and national membership in The Nature Conservancy?

This is the most frequently asked question about membership. The answer is, it's a package deal. If you join the national Conservancy, at any level from \$25 on up, you automatically become a member in the state

where you reside. Conversely, if you join a state chapter of the Conservancy, you are also a member nationally.

Either way, you get the combined package of state and national benefits, including the national magazine and your state chapter's newsletter. You can, however, customize this package in a number of ways:

One First, you can choose membership in a state other than that in which you reside. (Many folks who reside in other states have elected to be affiliated with the Maine Chapter, as they have second homes or vacation here.) Your national membership will continue unchanged.

Two Second, you can become a member in two or more states. To do this, you make a yearly donation of \$25 or more to each additional state chapter. You will then receive membership benefits from each chapter with which you are affiliated. (Many people who summer in Maine maintain membership both here and in their state of winter residence.)

For the foregoing types of basic membership, you receive annual dues notices from the national office in Arlington, Virginia. The dues you pay go to the national office. Part of the dues are used for expenses at the

Membership in The Nature Conservancy: A Package Deal You Can Customize



One benefit all Nature Conservancy members share is the knowledge that their support will preserve important and very often beautiful landscapes for current and future generations. This view of the Back River refuge described on the front page is but one example.

national office; a portion is allocated to the regional and state offices.

Three You can, however, customize your membership package in a third way. You can choose to send an unrestricted gift of \$100 or more a year to the state chapter of your choice, or to the International program, and become a *Conservator* or *Acorn* member. (Different states have different names for this program, but the rules are the same Conservancy-wide.)

In this option, your entire gift is put to work within the program you selected. You no longer receive dues notices from the national office, only reminders from the state of your choice. However, you still get the basic package, full benefits of both national and state membership, and you usually get extra benefits, sometimes depending on the level at which you give. Maine *Conservators*, for example, receive invitations to special field trips and events, plus the listing of their name in the chapter's annual report.

Four Still another variation is open to donors who make an unrestricted annual gift of \$1,000 or more. If you make such a gift to Maine, you become a member of the *Maine Heritage Society*. Again, the basic package is the same, but additional benefits are offered: in this case, one of them is the privilege of naming two friends for gift memberships.

Members who annually give \$1,000 or more to the national office become *Katharine Ordway Associates*, a group named for a woman whose generosity preserved thousands of acres.

Five Finally, a fifth choice is *Life Membership*. For a one-time endowment gift of \$1,000, a couple or a single person can receive the basic package of benefits as long as they live. No further payment of dues is necessary.

If you have any question about your Conservancy membership, by all means call or write to Barbara Clark or Joan Acord at the Maine Chapter office. We're always happy to hear from you.

Field trips are a good way of learning about Nature Conservancy preserves and other areas protected by the Conservancy. Also important is the opportunity of sharing the outdoors with some very nice people. We have taken suggestions from Maine Chapter members to heart in planning and scheduling trips. Look for more trips in upcoming newsletters.

Spring 1996 Field Trips

1. *Through The Woods And To The Shore*

Saturday, March 2, 1996 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

What happens in the forest when branches wear a coat of snow? Contemplate the ecology of the winter woods as preserve steward and naturalist Peter Blanchard once again leads a natural history ramble through the woods and to the shore at the **Indian Point-Blagden Preserve**. Peter has offered to add an afternoon cross-country ski on Bar Harbor's famous carriage trails for those who are game!

2. *Skiing The Heath*

Saturday, February 24, 1996 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

The Heath is exotic at any time of year. Join naturalists Nate Greene and Ken Rice at the **Saco Heath Preserve** for some *moderate to strenuous* cross country skiing and an introduction to the mystery and romance of Saco's urban wilderness. (It is one of the few times we encourage visitors to get off the boardwalk.)



Saco Heath in winter

3. *Mother's Day Is For The Birds*

Sunday, May 12, 1996 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

We've done the planning for this early bird early morning Mother's Day treat: all you need to do is bring mom along. You couldn't have a better guide to walk you through the varied habitats of Kittery's Fort Foster Park than Nancy McReel, amateur botanist/ornithologist extraordinaire. The walk will be over just in time for you to treat your mother to lunch at one of the area's fine dining establishments.

Field Trip Reservation Guidelines

Reservations: A *must*. PLEASE CALL the Maine Chapter at (207) 729-5181 during business hours. Space is limited to 15 persons per trip and phone reservations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis. If space is available when you call, you will be asked to send in the fee.

Fee: Non-refundable \$15 per person, adult or child.

Weather: Trips will be held rain, shine or snow - so please dress appropriately (ask if you are not sure). Bring a beverage, lunch or snacks depending on the time.

Maine Chapter Summer Jobs

The following positions, made possible by the Richard Saltonstall Jr. Memorial Endowment and the Ingram Richardson Memorial Fund, are available with the Maine Chapter this summer. The deadline for applications is March 8. For complete job descriptions and information on how to apply, please call the Chapter office at (207) 729-5181.

Stewardship Assistant

June 3 to August 30, Brunswick, (40hrs/wk)
\$7-9.00/hr. depending on qualifications

Southern Maine Stewardship Assistant

June 3 to August 30, Sanford, (40hrs/wk)\$7.00/hr.

Fernald's Neck Preserve Warden

June 14 to November 1, Camden/Lincolntonville,
\$7.00/hr./part time

Plover/Tern Warden

May 1 to August 14 or 28 (40hrs/wk) Seawall Beach,
Phippsburg, \$7.00/hr.

Damariscove Island Caretaker/Naturalist

Two positions (must apply as team), June 5 to September 4,
Boothbay, \$2,700 per position.

Mount Agamenticus Mosaic

Completing land acquisition work at Mount Agamenticus has been like assembling an old jigsaw puzzle. When surveys for each new piece of land to be acquired by the Land For Maine's Future Board (LMFB) are completed, there are always missing pieces that are critical to completing the landscape. This was clearly apparent when the state acquired the Moore's Falls property last February. The completed survey revealed that this 279.5-acre property, at first believed to be adjacent to the state's current holdings was actually separated from the land around Mount A by one set of property owners.

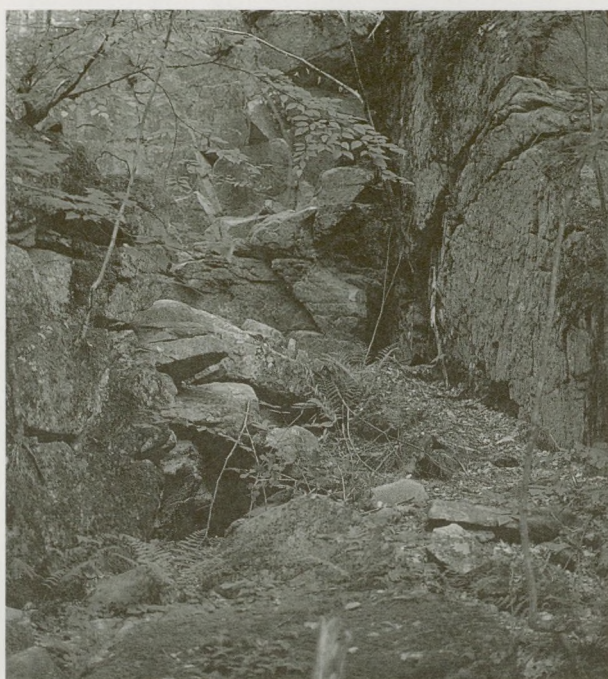
Because the rare spotted and Blanding's turtles that use these state lands travel great distances over the landscape, the Conservancy felt that it was

particularly important to fill in the gap. The Maine Chapter located the bridging ownership, contacted the land-owners and began to discuss a possible purchase.

The missing pieces, owned by Robert

and Edgar Whicher, have now been acquired by the state, bringing the total of state-owned lands at Mt. A to 1,442 acres. The new property contains the remains of the Norman Mill Dam, a popular crossing point on Chick's

Brook. The Maine Chapter (which has now negotiated the purchase of 15 tracts here on behalf of the LMFB) secured purchase options on the 20 acres of forested land on Chicks Brook in April, and the Land For Maine's Future Board voted to accept assignment of our purchase option and proceeded purchase this fall. With these acquisitions, a hiker or skier (or a turtle) can now travel from Mountain Road or First Hill in York to the Bennett Lot Road in South Berwick - all on public land - that is approximately five miles as the hawk flies.



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Other Organizational Support

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Hancock Timber Resource Group
Mahoney Middle School - 7th Gr.
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Mr. & Mrs. William Garside

John Countaway

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Broughton, Jr.
Barry Doughty
AEGIS Destroyer Planning Yard Staff

Carol Fritz

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Carpenter
Laura Ernst
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We are grateful for...

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Waterman Center of Apalachin, NY

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W O R K D A Y S

Here are three opportunities to get your hands dirty and and your spirits cleansed. No special skills required - just a willingness to pitch in alongside other Maine Chapter members and friends. You can bring tools if you have them, but all you'll really need is a brown bag lunch and an appreciation for some very special places.

Saco Heath Preserve

Saturday, April 27

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Several years in the building, the Saco Heath trail and boardwalk moves from the construction stage to the long-term maintenance phase: we'll be marking the trail, building an additional viewing platform, clearing brush and (as if those tasks aren't enough to entice you) hauling gravel! Bring a lunch and expect to work hard, have fun and get your feet wet. Please call Nancy Sferra at 490-4012.

Great Wass Island Preserve

Saturday, May 4

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Spend a day clearing blowdowns and repairing boardwalks and trails on one of Maine's most spectacular islands. Winter in Downeast Maine isn't always gentle. Come spring, we find our

1,600-acre Great Wass Island Preserve in Beals in need of the kind of care only a crew of dedicated Conservancy volunteers can provide. In return we'll share some of the island's fascinating natural history with you and the island will work its own special magic (you'll see). Please dial Land Steward Kyle Stockwell at 729-5181 for details.

Waterboro Barrens Preserve

Saturday, June 8

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There is always trail maintenance to be done on a 2,000-acre preserve. Take a day to clear trails, install trail signs and remove some trash. If you have yet to visit our Waterboro Barrens Preserve, this is a great way to get to know the peculiar charms of a pitch pine-scrub oak barren. Please contact Southern Maine Preserves Manager Nancy Sferra at 490-4012 to sign on.

W O R K D A Y S

Six Registration Boxes In Search Of A Builder

We are on the look out for a volunteer with carpentry skills. We need six new registration boxes for preserve entrances. The Chapter will supply the plans and the materials if you can volunteer the time and energy. Please call Nancy Sferra at 490-4012 for more information.



HAROLD MALDE

Special thanks to Betsy Newcomer, an avid amateur botanist, who has been inventoring plants at Waterboro Barrens Preserve. Starting in June with a list of 112 species, Betsy finished the field season in October with 269 more! That's a total of 381 plant species so far (including mosses, lichens and liverworts), and she is still looking forward to tackling most of the preserve's northern half next summer.

Wish List

As our capacity grows, so do our needs. One way we conserve our resources is by asking our friends to provide the tools we need to do our jobs well. Some items are fairly specialized, while others may be gathering dust in the back of your garage:

- photographic copy stand;
- 35 mm camera;
- laptop computer (Mac or IBM);
- spotting scope;
- adjustable wrench;
- tripod;
- plastic tool box (20" long);
- book shelf (4 shelves);
- sighting compass;
- headlamps;
- screwdriver set;
- pipe wrench;
- socket or box wrench set (non-metric);
- snow shoes.

Please call Sue Hastings (729-5181) if you can help out
- and thanks!

Thanks!

Our most sincere thanks go out to **Larry Hancock** for plowing the Saco Heath Parking lot; **Dick Smith** for flying staff over coastal preserves to perform stewardship monitoring; the **Environmental Airforce** for a flight over western Maine; the **Harraseeket Inn** for meeting space; **Nate Greene**, **Jim Hamblin**, **Faith Thibideau**, **Betty Josephson** and the **Biddeford Juvenile Court Community Service Program** for work on the Saco Heath boardwalk and trail; and to **Louis Johnson** for working in our Sanford office.

Would You?

Would you like to play an even more active role in protecting Maine lands and waters and the plants and animals that depend upon them? Would you be willing to wield a hammer, push a pen or even (gulp) brandish a telephone?

The Maine Chapter is compiling a list of members and friends on whom we can call when faced with a tall order on a short deadline. Please check off those tasks you are willing to help with. Then cut, fold and staple this page and mail it back to us. Thanks.



THOMAS H. ARTER

The La Verna Preserve protects some 3,600 feet of rugged shore on Muscongus Bay.

☐ Would you be willing to take on small scale carpentry projects

☐ in your home workshop?

☐ in the field?

☐ Would you be willing to contact an elected official to express your opinion on a conservation issue

☐ by writing a letter?

☐ by calling on the telephone?

☐ Would you be willing to represent The Nature Conservancy

☐ by tending a display table at a fair, Earth Day or other event?

☐ by presenting a slide show about our work?

☐ Would you be willing to write a letter to the editor about a local Conservancy initiative?

☐ Other?

Name (s) _____

Phone _____ home _____ work _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Place
Stamp
Here

Maine Chapter
The Nature Conservancy
Fort Andross
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Brunswick, Maine 04011-2026



Maine Legacy

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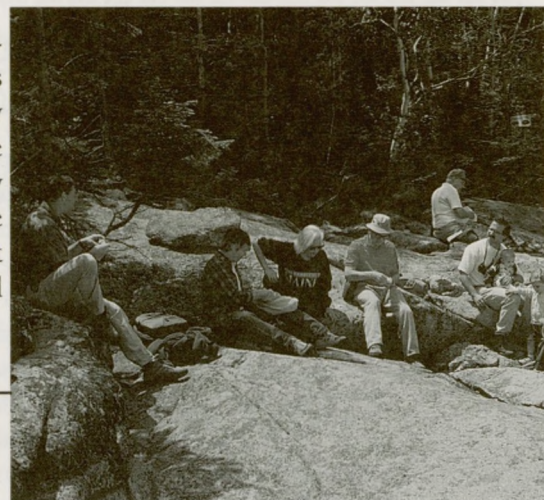


Scenes From The Field

We take tremendous satisfaction in protecting lands and waters in Maine - and truly enjoy opportunities to share these landscapes with Conservancy members. At right, members take a break during a June outing at Great Wass Island Preserve lead by Steve Day.



ROBERTA JORDAN



DI BECKER

At left, field trip leader Jensen Bissell describes natural processes in old growth stands at the Conservancy's Big Reed Forest Reserve. And below, canoes on Knight's Pond converge on field trip leader Greg Shute at the St. Clair Preserve in Northport.



NICK BECKER

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